HERSETH SANDLIN ANNOUNCES $15 MILLION GRANT AWARD TO SOUTH DAKOTA NON-PROFIT

South Dakota Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) receives $15 million Department of Commerce Grant

Washington, DC (July 19, 2010)- U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced today that South Dakota-based non-profit Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (CSD) will receive a $14,988,657 grant from the Department of Commerce.   CSD is based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"This grant will help CSD provide training and broadband support, which in turn will help enhance educational and employment opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing in South Dakota and across the country," said Herseth Sandlin.

The project intends to expand broadband adoption among people who are deaf and hard of hearing and provide them with online tools to more fully participate in the digital economy. The project proposes to employ a combination of discounted broadband service and specialized computers, technology training from an online state-of-the art support center customized to the community's needs, public access to videophones at anchor institutions from coast to coast, and a nationwide outreach initiative. Thousands will gain online access to all the Internet has to offer, including sign language interpreters, captioned video services, and other content and functionalities designed especially to advance their educational, employment, and healthcare interests. Broadband's ability to expand educational and employment opportunities is especially meaningful for Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing, a community that faces challenges in education and suffers from a rate of unemployment much higher than the national average.

This grant is a part of the Department of Commerce, in partnership with the White House and the Federal Communications Commission, commemoration and celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and highlight technologies developed to

empower the daily lives of Americans with disabilities.

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